

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented) A composite prosthesis for reinforcement of a tissue structure, comprising a porous textile support which includes an arrangement of threads each composed of at least one filament of nonabsorbable polymer material, the textile support having at least one protected zone and at least one nonprotected zone, the textile support defining a microporous texture comprising interstices located between at least two threads at sites of contact of one thread with at least one other thread, wherein, in at least one protected zone of the textile support, a hydrophilic absorbable material coats the textile support, forming a film enveloping and penetrating into the arrangement of threads, occluding at least the microporous texture, the textile support further defining a macroporous texture comprising volumes whose surface is defined by the empty spaces between at least two threads away from the sites of contact, and whose height is defined by a thickness of the textile support, and wherein the macroporous texture of the textile support in a first portion of the protected zone is not occluded by the film and the macroporous texture of the textile support in a second portion of the protected zone is occluded by the film.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein the textile support constitutes a two-dimensional structure.

4. (original) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein the film has a thickness of less than or equal to 500 microns.

5. (previously presented) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 4, wherein the film has a thickness from 10 to 100 microns.

6. (original) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one thread comprises several filaments of nonabsorbable polymer material, and the microporous texture additionally comprises the interstices between filaments of the same thread.

7. (canceled)

8. (previously presented) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein the textile support has the shape of a rectangular part and the protected zone extends along a central band of the rectangular part.

9. (previously presented) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein the textile support is in the shape of a strip with parallel edges, the central part being a protected zone.

10. (previously presented) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein the textile

support is in the shape of a strip with parallel edges which are curved in an arch, the central part being a protected zone.

11. (previously presented) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein the textile support is in the shape of a strip with nonparallel edges having a bulged central part and narrower lateral parts, wherein the bulging central part includes the protected zone and the narrower lateral parts being nonprotected.

12-13. (canceled)

14. (original) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein the absorbable material is chosen from the group formed by collagens, polysaccharides, and their mixtures.

15. (original) The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tissue structure is an extraperitoneal tissue.

16-18. (canceled)

19. (withdrawn) A process for preparing a composite prosthesis for reinforcement of a tissue structure, said process comprising the following steps: i) preparing a solution A of a hydrophilic absorbable material, in the fluid or liquid state, ii) impregnating at least part of the surface of a porous textile support with solution A, said porous textile support comprising an arrangement of threads each composed of at least one filament of nonabsorbable polymer

material, said textile support defining a microporous texture which includes the interstices located between at least two threads at the sites of contact of one thread with at least one other thread and a macroporous texture comprising volumes whose surface is defined by the empty spaces between at least two threads away from their sites of contact, and whose height is defined by the thickness of the textile support, wherein the macroporous texture of the textile support is not occluded iii) drying the impregnated part of the textile support.

20. (withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 19, wherein the impregnation step is done by immersing said part of the surface of the textile support in solution A.

21. (withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 19, wherein the impregnation step is done by spraying solution A onto said part of the surface of the textile support.

22. (withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 19, wherein solution A has a viscosity of less than or equal to 1000 centipoises.

23. (withdrawn) A composite reinforcement prosthesis obtainable by the process as claimed in claim 19.

24. (previously presented) A composite prosthesis for reinforcement of a tissue structure, comprising

a three-dimensional knitted structure which includes an arrangement of at least a first nonabsorbable thread and a second nonabsorbable thread,

the knitted structure defining a microporous texture comprising interstices located at sites of contact of the first nonabsorbable thread and the second nonabsorbable thread,

the knitted structure further defining a macroporous texture comprising empty spaces between the sites of contact of the first nonabsorbable thread and the second nonabsorbable thread,

the three-dimensional knitted structure having a protected zone, a nonprotected zone and a height defined by a thickness of the knitted structure; and

a hydrophilic absorbable material positioned on at least a portion of the knitted structure to form the protected zone,

the hydrophilic absorbable material occluding the microporous texture in the protected zone,

wherein the macroporous texture of the knitted structure in a first portion of the protected zone is not occluded by the hydrophilic absorbable material and

the macroporous texture of the knitted structure in a second portion of the protected zone is occluded by the hydrophilic absorbable material.